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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 11 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the letters dated 15 and 30 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia (A/67/964-S/2013/496 and A/67/974-S/2013/519), which have as their annexes the statements made in the name of the unlawful separatist entity referred to by Armenia as the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic".

It has been internationally recognized that the Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region and seven surrounding districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan are under Armenian military occupation. Armenia used military force to occupy the territory of Azerbaijan and to establish upon it the subordinate separatist entity. That entity is entirely unrecognized as such; it is under the direction and control of Armenia and is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing. The illegality of the separatist entity and its structures has been repeatedly stated at the international level in the most unambiguous manner.

In its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), adopted in response to the illegal use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, the Security Council reaffirmed both the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. It has further stated that Daghlyq Garabagh is part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying

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forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The numerous documents adopted by other international organizations on the conflict are phrased along the same lines.

The European Court of Human Rights has concluded that the above-mentioned separatist entity "is not recognised as a State under international law by any countries or international organisations" and that, "against this background, the invoked laws cannot be considered legally valid" (*Elkhan Chiragov and Others v. Armenia*, European Court of Human Rights, decision of 14 December 2011, application No. 13216/05, para. 102).

As is seen, the irresponsible attempts by Armenia to propagate the unlawful separatist entity evidently contravene the unanimous position of the international community with respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Against this background, the ceaseless efforts of Yerevan to mislead the international community clearly testify to the unwillingness of Armenia to comply with the obligations incumbent upon it under the Charter of the United Nations and the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, as well as to engage constructively in the ongoing efforts towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

There is no doubt that the annexationist claims of Armenia are without foundation and have absolutely no chance of success. The region of Daghlyq-Garabagh is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan, and there is no alternative to the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from that region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the exercise by the forcibly displaced population of their inalienable right to return and the establishment of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 67 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative